

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device comprising an elastic, elongated carrier element, as well as an elongated wiper blade of a flexible material, which can be placed in abutment with a windscreen to be wiped, which wiper blade includes opposing longitudinal grooves on its longitudinal sides, in which grooves spaced-apart longitudinal strips of the said carrier element are disposed, wherein neighbouring ends of said longitudinal strips are interconnected by a respective connecting piece, which windscreen wiper device comprises a connecting device for an oscillating arm, wherein said oscillating arm is pivotally connected to said connecting device about a pivot axis near one end, with the interposition of a joint part, ~~characterized in that~~ the said windscreen wiper device is provided with first and second retaining means for retaining said connecting device onto said oscillating arm, said first retaining means comprising at least one resilient tongue provided on said joint part engaging in at least one correspondingly shaped hole provided in said oscillating arm, said second retaining means comprising at least one first stop surface provided on the said oscillating arm and at least one second stop surface provided on at least one of said the joint part or the and said connecting device, both first and second stop surfaces being spaced apart during normal operation of the said windscreen wiper device, wherein in case of dysfunctioning of said first retaining means said connecting device is allowed to move with respect to said oscillating arm causing the said second stop surface to correspondingly move towards the said first stop surface until the said first and second stop surfaces are adjacent one another.

2. (New) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein said second stop surface is provided on said joint part.

3. (New) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein said second stop surface is provided on said connecting device.

4. ~~2.~~ (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said oscillating arm has an at least substantially U-shaped cross-section at the location of its connection to said joint part, and wherein said hole is provided in a base of said U-shaped cross-section.

5. ~~3.~~ (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said joint part comprises at least two lateral resilient tongues extending outwardly, wherein the oscillating arm has an at least substantially U-shaped cross-section with at least two legs at the location of its connection to said joint part, and wherein each tongue engages in a correspondingly shaped hole provided in a respective ones of said legs of said U-shaped cross-section.

6. ~~4.~~ (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1,~~2~~ or~~3~~, wherein said hole (~~s~~) has/have a closed circumference.

7. ~~5.~~ (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to ~~any of the preceding claim[[s]] 1 through~~ 4, wherein ~~the~~ said oscillating arm has an at least substantially U-shaped cross-section at the location of its connection to said joint part having two legs, and wherein each leg comprises clamping members which engage round longitudinal sides of said joint part that face away from each other.

8. ~~6.~~ (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to ~~any of the preceding claim[[s]] 1 through~~ 5, wherein ~~the~~ said second stop surface is caused operative

to correspondingly move towards the first stop surface in a longitudinal direction of the wiper blade.

9. 7. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to ~~any of the preceding claim[[s]] 1 through 6~~, wherein the oscillating arm has an at least substantially U-shaped cross-section at the location of its connection to said joint part, and wherein said first stop surface is provided on a leg of said U-shaped cross-section.

10. 8. (Original) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 7 9, wherein ~~the said~~ first stop surface is formed by a hook-shaped protrusion extending downwardly.

11. 9. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to ~~any of the preceding claim[[s]] 1 through 8~~, wherein said joint part has an at least substantially U-shaped cross-section at the location of its attachment to said connecting device, and wherein said second stop surface is provided on a leg of said U-shaped cross-section.

12. 10. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 9 11, wherein ~~the said~~ second stop surface is formed by a hook-shaped protrusion extending upwardly.

13. 11. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 7 9, wherein ~~the said~~ first stop surface is formed by a transverse pin extending inwardly.

14. 12. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 11 13, wherein ~~the said~~ second stop surface is formed by a guiding groove in ~~the said~~ connecting device.

15. 13. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to ~~any of the preceding claim[[s]] 1 through 12~~, wherein said connecting device is positioned at least substantially within said joint part.

16. 14. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 13 15, wherein said joint part is attached to said connecting device by pivotally engaging protrusions of said connecting device at the location of said pivot axis in recesses provided in said joint part.

17. 15. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 14 16, wherein said joint part has an at least substantially U-shaped cross-section at the location of its attachment to said connecting device having two legs, and wherein said joint part in each leg of said U-shaped cross-section is provided with a recess provided coaxially with said pivot axis.

18. 16. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 16 14 or 15, wherein the said protrusions extend outwards on either side of said connecting device and wherein the said protrusions are at least substantially cylindrical.

19. 17. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to any of the preceding claim[[s]] 13 through 16 15, wherein said joint part is made of plastic.

20. 18. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to any of the preceding claim[[s]] 1 through 17, wherein the said oscillating arm, the said connecting device and the said joint part are each made in one piece.